



P. O. Box 300900 ♦ Montgomery, AL 36130  
(334) 242-3184 ♦ [preserveala.org](http://preserveala.org)

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**Contact:** Lee Anne Wofford, (334) 230-2659

## **CHEROKEE COUNTY'S GARRETT CEMETERY ADDED TO ALABAMA HISTORIC CEMETERY REGISTER**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently added Garrett Cemetery in Centre to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

"The cemetery register is a prestigious listing of historic cemeteries in Alabama," said Lee Anne Wofford, cemetery program coordinator. "The AHC considers the notable historic cemeteries in this register to be particularly worthy of preservation and appreciation, and therefore deserving of this special recognition."

This is the first cemetery in Cherokee County listed on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, which features 313 cemeteries statewide.

Garrett Cemetery is a beautiful resting place of many prominent early settlers. Most notably, Chief Pathkiller is buried here. Pathkiller was the last of the principle chiefs for the Cherokee Nation who followed traditional Cherokee culture. After Pathkiller, the Cherokee began assimilating into Euro/American culture. He also fought under Gideon Morgan in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and was honored for his service to the American military. Pathkiller was a successful farmer, plantation owner and ferry owner.

The Alabama Historical Commission administers the Alabama Historic Cemetery Program that gives aid to the general public, government officials, civic groups, and others in identifying, documenting, registering, and conserving Alabama's historic cemeteries.

The Alabama Historic Cemetery Register officially recognizes and honors family and community cemeteries that were established at least 40 years ago.

Listing in the state cemetery register is an honorary designation imposing no restrictions on property owners. State law protects all cemeteries from willful desecration and destruction.

***To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the Alabama Historical Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office.***

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